

## I. AMENDMENTS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, listings and amendments to the claims:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Previously Presented) A method for preparing substantially homogenous, biologically functional and activated IKK protein complex comprising transforming a yeast with an IKK subunit gamma ( $\gamma$ ) gene and an IKK subunit alpha ( $\alpha$ ) gene and an IKK subunit beta ( $\beta$ ) gene and growing said yeast and separating said IKK protein complex from said yeast thereby preparing substantially homogenous, biologically functional and activated IKK protein complex.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Canceled)
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2 or 42, wherein one or more of said IKK subunit ( $\gamma$ ) gene, or IKK subunit ( $\alpha$ ) gene or IKK subunit ( $\beta$ ) gene further comprises a sequence encoding a tag.
6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein said tag is selected from the group consisting of myc, HA, FLAG and 6his.
7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2 or 42, wherein one or more of said IKK subunit ( $\gamma$ ) gene, or IKK subunit ( $\alpha$ ) gene or IKK subunit ( $\beta$ ) gene is linked to an inducible promoter or a constitutive promoter.
- Claims 8 –16. (Canceled).
17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2 or 42, wherein said yeast is *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*.
18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2 or 42, wherein one or more of said IKK subunit ( $\gamma$ ) gene, or IKK subunit ( $\alpha$ ) gene or IKK subunit ( $\beta$ ) gene is a mammalian IKK gene.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein one or more of said mammalian IKK subunit ( $\gamma$ ) gene, or mammalian IKK subunit ( $\alpha$ ) gene or mammalian IKK subunit ( $\beta$ ) gene is a human.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2 or 42, wherein said yeast is grown in selective liquid media.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2 or 42, wherein one or more of said IKK subunit ( $\gamma$ ) gene, or IKK subunit ( $\alpha$ ) gene or IKK subunit ( $\beta$ ) gene encodes a wild-type IKK subunit protein.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2 or 42, wherein one or more of said IKK subunit ( $\gamma$ ) gene, or IKK subunit ( $\alpha$ ) gene or IKK subunit ( $\beta$ ) gene encodes a mutated IKK subunit protein.

Claims 24 – 41. (Canceled)

42. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing substantially homogenous, biologically functional and activated IKK protein complex comprising transforming a yeast with an IKK subunit gamma ( $\gamma$ ) gene and an IKK subunit alpha ( $\alpha$ ) gene and an IKK subunit beta ( $\beta$ ) gene and growing said yeast and separating said IKK protein complex from said yeast, wherein ~~an IKK subunit ( $\gamma$ ) protein encoded by said IKK subunit gamma ( $\gamma$ ) gene solely regulates activation of said IKK protein complex~~ the IKK protein complex is autophosphorylated at a T loop of an IKK subunit beta ( $\beta$ ) thereby preparing substantially homogenous, biologically functional and activated IKK protein complex.